

*C h a r l e s t o n*

# DISTRICT DISPATCH

*"Just Doing It"*

VOLUME 24

ISSUE 3



JELLEMA TACKLES DC  
ASSIGNMENT



CORPS PROPOSES CHANGES  
TO NWP



OVEST JOINS THE DISTRICT



TRANSITION WORKSHOP A  
SUCCESS



GOLF TOURNAMENT REWARDS  
CHAMPIONS



MCAS DESIGN UNDERWAY



# Commanders Corner

The first message I want to pass to all of you in my first Commander's Corner is Thanks! I want each of you to know how much my family and I have appreciated the warm welcome we received to the Charleston District and the Low Country. From our initial welcome, the Change of Command Ceremony and reception to division in-briefs and project site visits, I have been very impressed with the professionalism and courtesies of each member of the District. The Charleston District is a terrific team. I am very grateful to be serving with you and am proud to be part of this great Corps family.

One of the critical responsibilities of a commander is to ensure open communications are alive and well within their organization. The Corps' strategic goals of People, Process, and Communication reinforces this task. I will take advantage of each and every opportunity I have to ensure communication channels are open here in the Charleston District. The District Dispatch is another key tool to pass on good information concerning what is going on in our District, the South Atlantic Division, and the Corps.

There has been an awful lot that

has happened since I assumed Command on 6 July 2001. The heat of the summer months has come and gone, we've deployed two team members to assist flood recovery efforts in West Virginia, two more key contracts for the Charleston Harbor deepening have neared completion, our regulatory office in Conway is operational, we've moved forward with milestones in the transition of the Office of the Value Engineering Study Team's (OVEST) oversight from SAS to SAC, numerous team members have participated in Corps conferences around the Nation, and we stand ready with the rest of the Corps to support any aspect of the recovery efforts in New York City and Washington D.C. in wake of the tragic terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001.

Let me highlight a few hot topics: **Command Philosophy.** I published my Command Philosophy to help each member of the team better understand how I think and set priorities for the good of the District, the Corps, and the Nation. The Chief of Engineers and Corps leadership have set a clear vision for the Army Corps and we need to ensure our actions support this campaign. As I lead the District through this campaign, I will always assess our mission and vision along with my philosophy of Accomplishing Our Mission, Caring for Our People, Doing What is Right, and Always Doing Our Best as we make decisions and take actions on a daily basis.

**District Transition Workshop.** A significant event took place on 30 and 31 July 2001, the conduct of our District Transition Workshop.

The goals were to enhance open communications, build teamwork, receive input, and develop some long-term strategic goals as we refine our two-year business plan. The workshop identified five focus areas for the District team to strengthen our capabilities. Senior leadership reviewed all the workshop output and applied the findings to our business cycle which resulted in identification of six separate but related actions that require refinement within the District: The Project Management Business Process - Refining Project Delivery Team Processes; Educating the Public - on Corps capabilities and activities; Our Outreach Program - with customers, stakeholders and leaders; Workload Management - to properly manage brokered work; Working Smart - Information Technology, Career Path, and Training and finally to take actions to Enhance Communications within the District. Our next step is to form teams and develop action plans for moving forward. This will be the first step in reviewing our District Business Plan and refining it in the January/February 2002 time frame. I encourage whoever is interested in these focus areas to contact your chain of command to offer assistance.

**SAD Update.** The Corps has embarked on a goal to think in a more regional manner. Our key input to this process is through the Division Command Council (I sit on this Council as DE) and the SAD Regional Management Board (RMB) where regional matters are discussed and regional

continued on page 15





The District sponsored its annual Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) training during the month of August, with a make-up session in September. Approximately 95% of the workforce received the training. The objectives of the POSH training were to: (1) understand the terms associated with sexual harassment; (2) increase one's knowledge of and ability to recognize and deal with sexual harassment; and (3) establish and maintain an environment free of sexual harassment.

Sexual Harassment, a form of sex discrimination, is a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It was not until 1976 that a court interpreted the Title VII prohibition as extending to sexual harassment (Williams v. Saxbe, USDC 1976). In 1980, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) issued guidelines declaring sexual harassment a violation of Title VII.

EEOC defines sexual harassment as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, non-verbal, and physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

**A.** submission to or rejection of

## EEO Moment

by Barbara Gathers

such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a person's job, pay or career or

**B.** submission to or rejection of such a conduct by a person is used as a basis for career or employment decisions affecting that person, or

**C.** such conduct interferes with an individual's performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

The EEOC guidelines define two types of sexual harassment: Quid Pro Quo and Hostile Work Environment. Quid Pro Quo, a Latin term that means "this for that," occurs when a supervisor or other member of management requests or demands sexual favors from an employee in exchange for some employment benefit, i.e., promotions, awards, etc. Hostile work environment occurs when the work place is permeated with ridicule and insults that are so severe or so pervasive that it creates an offensive or intimidating work environment. Unless the conduct is quite severe or pervasive, a single, isolated incident generally does not constitute a "hostile" work environment. However, a single, intentional touching of an intimate body area is sufficiently offensive enough to constitute sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is a form of employee misconduct, which undermines the integrity of the employment relationship. All employees must be allowed to work in an environment free from unsolicited and unwelcome sexual overtures. Sexual harassment debilitates morale and interferes in work productivity.

Below is a list of behavior, which

may constitute sexual harassment. Have you heard of, participated in, or observed any of these?

☒ Patting, pinching, touching, bumping, grabbing, hugging

☒ Blocking, cornering, hugging, kissing, massaging

☒ Displaying sexually oriented objects, cartoons, posters, calendars

☒ Referring to one another as baby, sweetheart, honey, hunk, sugar, darling

☒ Blowing kisses, licking lips, winking, leering, ogling

☒ Whistling, oinking, barking, growling, cat calling

☒ Sending out sexually suggestive letters, notes, e-mails

☒ Cursing, yelling, screaming, name calling

☒ Pressuring another for dates, demands for sexual favors

☒ Hanging around the desk of a co-worker

☒ Telling sexually oriented jokes or making sexually oriented remarks

To determine if your behavior is unwanted, unwelcome, and/or inappropriate, ask yourself: Would I behave the same way if the person that I am in a relationship with were standing next to me? Would I want someone else to act this way toward the person that I am in a relationship with? Or would I want someone else to act this way toward my daughter, son, mother, father, or sibling? ☒

# Notes and Such from PPMD

By Elmer Schwingen, DDPM

It's September 13th and I have been asked to outline the District's workload for the upcoming year. Given the events of the last few days, how sure can any of us be as to the future? However as of now, the District's FY-02 program, assuming some of the congressional adds make it to the final budget, looks good. We will continue to deepen and widen Charleston Harbor and continue the O&M "traditional" program in the AIWW, Charleston Harbor, Cooper River, Georgetown, etc. Six GI Studies will continue from FY-01 with possible adds for two new Reconnaissance Studies, Reedy River and Santee Delta. The Reedy River study would be a comprehensive study of problems and opportunities along the river. The Santee Delta study would focus on the Federal interest in pursuing an Ecosystem Restoration project. In addition, we may start the Reconnaissance Study for future Charleston Harbor deepening and widening. Our South Carolina continuing authority program will be steady at about \$1.2 million. The Charleston District's share of the President's FY-02 budget is approximately \$30 million as compared to our share of the FY-01 budget, including congressional adds, of \$56 million. The reduction of about \$26 million is generally due to the amount of construction that has already been completed for the deepening and widening of Charleston Harbor. Significant adds are being discussed for our FY-02 budget. These are generally in our O&M program for Murrells Inlet and in the CG program for the Lakes Marion and Moultrie Water Supply.

In addition, the OVEST effort is

being transferred to Charleston (See related story on Page 9). This transfer will increase our direct labor base and allow us to further reduce our general overhead rate and thereby be a more affordable buy for our customers. We will continue in FY-02 to be a regional player within SAD and receive tasks from regions within the Southeast that are outside of South Carolina. In FY-01 we worked on CAP projects in North Carolina, Florida and Alabama.

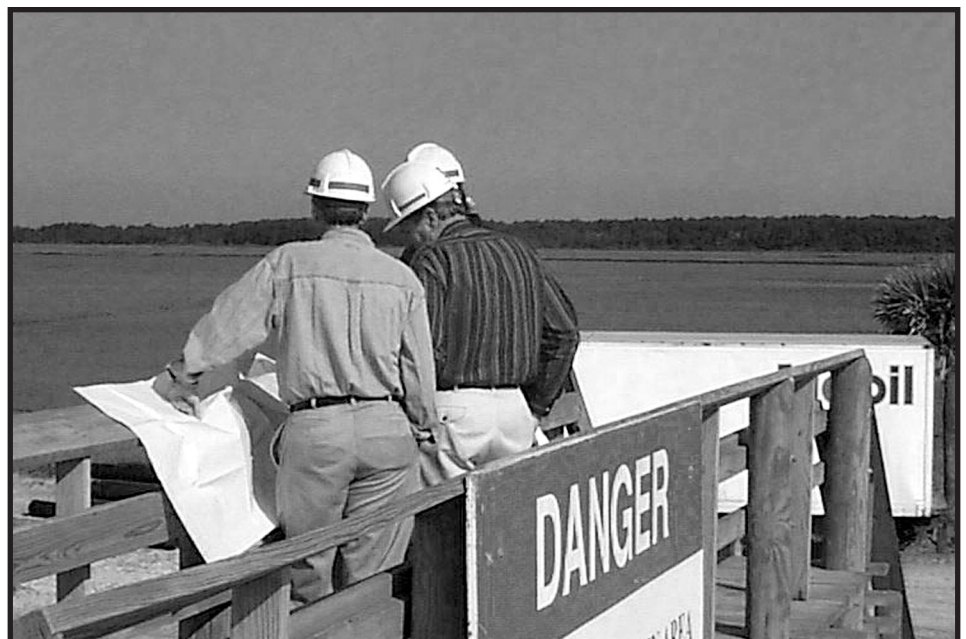
Charleston District continues to receive strong congressional support for both our traditional missions as well as new missions such as Lakes Marion & Moultrie Water Supply. Our Regulatory program is second to none, and we continue to expand into the northern regions of the state with the opening of field offices in both Columbia and Conway. We have a strong Support for Others program and continue to work with AMC-AFLOAT, the Marine Corps (that other Corps), FAA, and the Department of Energy at Savannah River Site as well as

the Naval Weapons Station and others.

For FY-02 I feel that we will be called upon to assist in our Nation's recovery. Our traditional programs may be reduced to help fund these recovery efforts. We will and have already received tasks in the recovery, and I think it is likely that we will be asked to provide personnel to assist. We may move into some sort of military support functions or expanded civil works missions. The FY-02 military program prior to these latest events was enormous, and I am sure that our response to terrorist attacks will further increase this workload. All Corps activities will be asked to assist in both the recovery and response.

In closing, we have a new regulation covering the Project Management Business Process. So... dust off your PMBP 101 provided in a previous *District Dispatch*. It covers all the basics and is in conformance with the new ER.

Look out for each other, fly old glory and be safe. 





# Safety Line

By Mark Turner

October is Fire Prevention Month. In keeping with that theme, this edition's Safety Line addresses fire in the United States. With the change back to Eastern Standard Time, we are all reminded to check the batteries in our smoke detectors. Please remember to practice proper fire safety, not just in October, but all year.

## Fire in the United States

The U.S. has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world. For 1998, the U.S. fire death rate was 14.9 deaths per million people. Between 1994 and 1998, an average of 4,400 Americans lost their lives and another 25,100 were injured annually as the result of fire.

About 100 firefighters are killed each year in duty-related incidents. Each year, fire kills more Americans than all natural disasters combined. Fire is the third leading cause of accidental death in the home and at least 80 percent of all fire deaths occur in residences. About 2 million fires are reported each year. Many others go unreported, causing additional injuries and property loss. Direct property loss due to fires is estimated at \$8.6 billion annually.

## Where Fires Occur

There were 1,755,000 fires in the United States in 2000. Of these:

- 41% were Outside Fires
- 29% were Structure Fires
- 22% were Vehicle Fires
- 8 % were fires of other types

Residential fires represent 22 percent of all fires and 74 percent of structure fires.

Fires in 1-2 family dwellings most often start in the:

- Kitchen 23.5%
- Bedroom 12.7%
- Living Room 7.9%
- Chimney 7.1
- Laundry Area 4.7%

Apartment fires most often start in the:


- Kitchen 46.1%
- Bedroom 12.3%
- Living Room 6.2%
- Laundry Area 3.3%
- Bathroom 2.4%

The South has the highest fire death rate per capita with 18.4 civilian deaths per million people. Eighty percent of all fatalities occur in the home. Of those, approximately 85 percent occur in single-family homes and duplexes. Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. as well as the leading cause of home fire injuries. Cooking fires often result from unintended cooking and human error, rather than mechanical failure of stoves or ovens. Careless smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths. Smoke alarms and smolder-resistant bedding and upholstered furniture are significant fire deterrents. Heating is the second leading cause of residential fires and the second leading cause of fire deaths. However, heating fires are a larger problem in single-family homes than in apartments. Unlike apartments, the heating systems in single-family homes are often not professionally maintained. Arson is both the third leading cause of residential fires and residential fire deaths. In commercial properties, arson is the major cause

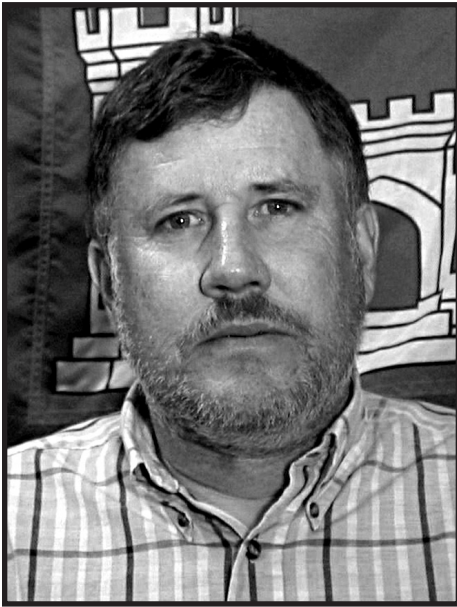
of deaths, injuries and dollar loss.

Who is Most at Risk? Senior citizens age 70 and over and children under the age of 5 have the greatest risk of fire death. The fire death risk among seniors is more than double the average population. The fire death risk for children under age 5 is nearly double the risk of the average population. Children under the age of 10 accounted for an estimated 17 percent of all fire deaths in 1996. Men die or are injured in fires almost twice as often as women. African Americans and American Indians have significantly higher death rates per capita than the national average. Although African Americans comprise 13 percent of the population, they account for 26 percent of fire deaths.

## What Saves Lives

A working smoke alarm dramatically increases a person's chance of surviving a fire. Approximately 88 percent of U.S. homes have at least one smoke alarm. However, these alarms are not always properly maintained and as a result might not work in an emergency. There has been a disturbing increase over the last ten years in the number of fires that occur in homes with non-functioning alarms. It is estimated that over 40 percent of residential fires and three-fifths of residential fatalities occur in homes with no smoke alarms. Residential sprinklers have become more cost effective for homes. Currently, however, few homes are protected by them. 

# EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



"I really didn't feel like I deserved it," said **Fred Veal** of Regulatory. "I think there are so many deserving people in the District. I am honored to have been selected." Fred was chosen as the District's July Employee of the Month (EOM). A Team Leader for jurisdictional wetland determinations, Fred oversees the work of seven biologists in the Regulatory Division. He also serves as the Endangered Species Liaison to National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As part of his duties Fred is also responsible for review of Environmental Assessments (EA).

Fred transferred to the District in October 1977 from the Alabama Forestry Commission. He has been a Team Leader for six years and says the thing that impresses him most about the District is "the diversity of people, skills and knowledge. Everyone works together as a team."

While she might not be Avis, the August EOM **Angie Williams** does try harder. Angie is a Logistical Support Assistant and the District

best knows her as "the car lady." But Angie has other duties besides making sure we have a vehicle to take to the field. She also handles the corporate travel account, PCS moves, is the timekeeper for LM, RM and CPAC, just to name a few of her other duties.

Transferring here from POMFLANT at the Naval Weapons Station following a RIF, Angie has been with the District since 1994. Being honored as EOM was a mixed blessing for Angie. "Right after I received the award, everything just went haywire." Things were so haywire that occasionally Angie forgot about the EOM parking space and would have to drive around the parking lot to get back to it. Despite the temporary insanity, Angie says she was very honored to have been given the award and wanted to thank everyone involved.

The September EOM is **Mike Verdolini** from the Navigation Section of Technical Services. As a civil engineering technician, Mike is responsible for assisting with all

of the navigation projects. He provides maps of completed surveys, computes volumes of material to be removed or that has been removed, and performs a variety of other services to aid the rest of the team in the Navigation Section. Mike has been in his current position since February. Previously he was part of the Survey Team.

As a 20-year employee of the District, Mike says the most impressive thing about the District is the people. "I have never met anybody in the District I didn't like," he commented. Mike was apprehensive the day he received his EOM honor. "I thought I was in trouble. I looked up and there he was [LTC Mueller]. It was a total shock to receive the award."

The employee of the month receives a certificate, and a print of the new District office building, as well as a District coin and use of the Employee of the Month parking spot next to the building.

The District applauds Fred, Angie and Mike.





## District Holds Transition Workshop

by Travis Hughes

On July 30 and 31, 2001, the Charleston District held its transition workshop at the Charleston Air Force Base for our new Commander. For these two days 27 team members met and discussed our district. Attendees were Team Leaders, Branch Chiefs, Division Chiefs, and future leaders within the district. Mr. Eugene Tickner, the Deputy District Engineer for Project Management from the Wilmington District, did an excellent job as facilitator. Mr. Tickner has served many years with the Corps of Engineers and his knowledge of our processes and structure was invaluable.


The primary goal of the workshop was to identify the direction for the Charleston District's future. As the new District Engineer, LTC Mueller needed to see where

Charleston has been, where it is going, and where is the best place for it to be in the future. He wanted the group to focus on what our legacy should be. In other words, what do you want the Charleston District to be known for? Sound like an easy question? Well, if there were unlimited funds and unconstrained boundaries, it might just be. But the reality of the matter is that there are certain restraints and boundaries that restrict us in some ways. LTC Mueller wanted the participants to provide input and discussion on how to develop a two-year business plan that will take the District where it needs to go in order for us to leave the legacy that we choose. He also wanted to insure that we look beyond his tenure in our district and begin to develop our long-term stra-

tegic goals while we keep a steady handle on the building blocks that are in place and continue to build teamwork and communications skills.

accomplish this and what goals needed to be focused on. At the conclusion, it was determined that there were five areas that needed this focus. They were Teamwork, Workload, Customer Focus, Public Education & Outreach, and Political Alliances. These areas would be reviewed and refined to in order to develop teams to study different portions of these areas. (See Commander's Corner Page 1)

This workshop involved a lot of hard work and provided a great deal of information to the new DE. But it is only the beginning of a process to address the road ahead for the district. There will be continual follow-up as we assess our business plan and work for constant improvements to put these ideas into actions supporting the members of the Charleston District and our customers.

If you are interested in more information about the workshop, please ask your chain of command -- they worked hard participating in this important process. 

What was your best, scariest or coolest Halloween Costume Ever? "I lived way out in the Boon Docks and there was no one to dress up for. I never had the chance to go trick or treating." Poor Diane. Diane Carter



Mike Verdolini September Employee of the Month

## Finding His Second Wind -- Regulatory Division's Don Hill is Drummer in Classic Rock & Blues Band

by Sophia George

In the Regulatory Division where he serves as Chief of the District's Environmental Assessment and Enforcement Branch, Don Hill's colleagues are used to seeing him serious and work-oriented, but when he exits the confines of the building and the pressures of the work day, Hill trades in his pen and manuscripts for the rhythmic sticks of a drum. The name of the band is Second Wind and Don Hill is the drummer and "spiritual advisor." The title of "spiritual advisor" was initially bestowed on Hill because band members thought that just the word "drums" underneath the drummer's name on the Web Site appeared quite vacant in comparison to the rest of the members who all had the suffix "...and vocals" gracing their names and the instrument which they played. Hill refers to the label as "the result of a twisted sense of humor." The band's name Second Wind is significant. Don elucidated. "It comes from the fact that we were off stage for such a long time and getting the band together was for us the equivalent of getting our musical 'second wind'."

The band comprises six other members - Michael Davis (lead guitar and vocals), Jimmy Hager (tenor sax, flute, blues harp, congas and vocals), Andre LeBlanc (keyboards and vocals), Randy Olsen (guitar and vocals) and Kenny Price (trumpet, flugelhorn, percussion and vocals). Michael Clay is the band's "road crew chief." Second Wind was born seven years ago by five band members. Don explained to The


District Dispatch that this was, in fact, a reincarnation for the group members who had all played in "different bands together" in the 1960's. According to the drummer, the musicians took a break from music to attend to the needs of their families and the demands of their lives. The members united in 1993 and with their inherent love for music came to the decision that playing together again would be an enjoyable venture.

The band plays a wide variety of music, including Classic Rock and Roll, Beach Music, Blues and R&B. Hill said the band does not always play on a weekly basis. Though at times they may be booked for weeks on end, there are times when they do not play at all. He explained that

performing for a crowd took much more than the average person could fathom and were the group to perform on a weekly basis, "it would become a job." Tina Hadden, Chief of the Permits Branch in the Regulatory Division, saw Second Wind perform and had this to say: "Great music!!! Lots of fun...My only criticism is that they refused to let me sing along with

them on stage. Don can't sing either and they let him have a microphone. But, even without me, everybody should go and hear them at least once. Randy is the best singer...almost as good as me!!!!!!"

Don said the band had no critical goals or objectives to achieve. According to him, the dream of "making it big in New York ended in 1971." The band's foremost aim is simply to "do the best we can musically, entertain the crowd and have a good time." Don added, "We are just here to have fun. We play and we have a good time doing it."

For more information about the band, check out the band's Web Site at [www.secwind.com](http://www.secwind.com). 





## OVEST Comes to Charleston

The start of the new fiscal year brought with it a new program for the Charleston District. Effective 1 October, the Office of the Chief of Engineers Value Engineering Study Team (OVEST), became a part of the District. This team was established in 1984 and since that time has completed over 450 studies and has provided recommendations for over \$2 billion in savings. OVEST was formerly part of the Savannah District.

OVEST has a wide array of expertise, including planning, design, design review, O&M and project management. This integrated team performs value engineering studies to help the Corps and other agencies, provide better, more cost-effective projects to Sponsors and taxpayers. These studies analyze a variety of aspects of the project life cycle. Some studies look for ways to save money or optimize resources on designs and their implementation, while others look for ways to solve design problems. OVEST can, and often does, serve as a coordinator between the designers and the users and in some instances is able to transfer innovative technologies to the designer or the end user.


In addition to supporting the Army Corps of Engineers with Military, Civil Works and HTRW/DERP projects, OVEST has served other Federal agencies. The Department of Interior, Department of Energy, State Department, NASA, and EPA have all benefited from the team's services. Two studies

completed for the Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg resulted in \$20 million in savings, while a study of EPA's Environmental Campus Design resulted in the capture of \$27 million in contingency costs plus an additional \$2.1 million in life cycle savings.

While the District assumed command of OVEST on 7 October, the arrival of employees will take place over time. The current 5 members will remain in Savannah. The team currently has 4 vacancies, and as those vacancies are filled, these employees will report to Charleston as their duty station. While at first glance this may seem chaotic, having team members in different locations, it's not that unusual for the members of OVEST. Because the team supports the entire Corps of Engineers, as well as other agencies, the members of OVEST travel a great deal as part of their duties, as much as

50% of the time. In fact, as we go to press OVEST Chief Earra Merritt is in Korea. It is rare for them all to be in the office at the same time, so the fact that some are in Charleston and some are in Savannah will not make things all that different.

Even though OVEST is under a new command, they will still provide the same services to the same clients. "I don't think our clients will notice a change," comments Charlie Fore, OVEST team member. The Corps of Engineers and other agencies will continue to receive first rate value engineering studies that will provide them with cost savings, design improvements, innovative technologies, and/or analysis that will make their projects more cost effective. The District is happy to have them as our newest addition. We welcome our newest members of the Charleston team!

Look to future editions of the District Dispatch for more information on OVEST. 



Charlie Fore gives an Ovest Briefing at PRB

# Updates From Emergency Management by Marline Judy

## Security of Our People

As you are all aware, we have heightened security at our building. The events experienced by the United States on September 11, 2001 will change our lives forever. Security measures have been implemented to ensure the safety of all our people. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Our Threat Conditions (THREATCON) level has increased since the attack on America and will probably remain at the increased level for some time. THREATCON is a term that describes progressive levels of terrorist threat to the U.S. These terms, definitions, and recommended security measures are intended to facilitate inter-service coordination and support of anti-terrorism activities. For your information, THREATCON levels are described below:

**THREATCON ALPHA** - This condition applies when there is a general threat of possible terrorist activity against installations and/or personnel and the nature and extent of threat is generally unpredictable. Security measures implemented during this THREATCON must be capable of being maintained indefinitely.

**THREATCON BRAVO** - This condition applies when an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activities exists. The measures implemented during this THREATCON must be capable of being maintained for several weeks without causing undue hardship and with

minimal affect on operating capabilities.

**THREATCON CHARLIE** - This condition applies when an incident occurs or when intelligence is received which indicates that some form of terrorist action is imminent. If security measures recommended for this THREATCON are implemented for a sustained period, they will likely create hardship and affect peacetime activities of the unit and its personnel.

**THREATCON DELTA** - This condition is applicable to the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence indicates that terrorist action against a specific site is likely.

Potential Missions for CESAC

Once the District heard about the "Attack on America," response to the attack was immediate. System to Locate Survivors (STOLS) members, an Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) member, and ICE team members were alerted to support America. Although Charleston District was not tasked to send our team members, several teams were activated from other Corps districts to assist CENAD. Our STOLS, US&R and ICE team, as well as other District personnel, stand ready to assist the Nation.

The District received a call from Division concerning potential use of refrigerated trucks (REEFERS) for use as a mortuary service. Emergency Management Team members along with Contracting were

quick to modify the current national ice contract to include this new requirement. Contracting and the EM team worked late into the evening to ensure a quick response to the Nation. Although the task did not materialize, the District is ready to support this and other disasters.

Recently HQUSACE asked for volunteers to support the Nation with Field Force Engineering to meet any future CONUS and OCONUS missions. Twenty-Two employees have volunteered to assist with any response worldwide. A special thanks to all those who volunteered.

## West Virginia Floods

Many employees volunteered to assist Huntington District in response to severe flooding in the State of West Virginia. Fred South and Max Hayes were chosen to assist Huntington with Debris Removal and Demolition operations. Fred was deployed for a total of 60 days, while Max completed a tour of 30 days. Welcome back and thanks for a job well done!


## 2001 Hurricane Season

William Gray, a hurricane forecaster at Colorado State University, and his team of researchers released an updated forecast in April for the 2001 season calling for 12 named storms, seven hurricanes and three intense hurricanes. In their initial storm forecast in December, the researchers predicted nine named storms, five hurricanes and two intense hurricanes.



"There were mixed signals this year," said Gray. Among the reasons for the updated forecast, he said, was that the El Nino phenomenon in the Pacific was not proceeding as expected. El Nino, a warm body of water extending from the South American west coast north in the Pacific, can produce strong westerly winds that move across the Atlantic and rip the tops off developing storms.

Gray also cited above-average sea temperatures in the Atlantic Basin, which includes the North Atlantic, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico and below-average Atlantic trade winds, both of which promote hurricane activity. The team also forecasts above-average rainfall in West Africa, another reason for the amended prediction. "All of the climate signals in the Atlantic Basin that we've been monitoring are very positive for above-average storm activity this year," Gray said. The 2001 hurricane season extends from June 1 to November 30.

Currently, we have had five (5) tropical storms and four (4) hurricanes in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Hopefully, the District's response will be minimal this year, and the U.S. will avoid a major storm striking the coast of America. If a storm does hit, the District is ready to provide support wherever necessary. 

What was your best, scariest or coolest Halloween Costume Ever? "My wife and I went to a party once as matching bumblebees." Jim Truelove


## Scholarship Committee Kicks off New Year with Hotdog Sale

On August 24 the District's Scholarship Committee hosted their first event of the year, a hot dog sale. The lunch – where people could get two hot dogs, chips, cole slaw, ice cream and a drink for \$5 – raised just under \$100 for the Scholarship Fund. This is the first in a number of events that the committee will host between now and the presentation of scholarships in June 2002. "We hope to raise at least \$3,000," said one team member. This is approximately how much the committee raises each year.

The committee has scheduled several events for the coming months. On October 16 there will be a cheeseburger lunch, and a Halloween Bake Sale and Book Fair will be held on October 30. The committee will host a taco lunch on November 15 and another theme lunch the first week of December. The annual Shirt and Cap sale began

September 25 and will continue through October 12.

The committee's biggest event, the Annual Chili Cook-off, will be in late February or early March. A variety of other events are in the planning stages with dates to be announced later. The committee is always looking for volunteers, for either the committee or specific events. If you are interested, please contact John Kassebaum.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of the Scholarship Fund. 



# Corps Proposes to Reissue Nationwide Permits

By Travis Hughes

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a key role in the protection of the Nation's aquatic environment through its Regulatory Program. The nationwide permit program is a critical part of this protection, allowing work in areas where the impact will be minimal and allowing our regulatory staff to concentrate on the more complex and critical cases.

Nationwide Permits (NWP) are general permits used nationally to authorize discharges of dredged or fill material that will have minimal impact to the aquatic environment. Corps regulators issue two types of permits: individual permits and general permits. Individual permits, requiring public notice, pertain to situations with potentially substantial impacts and are issued on a project-specific basis. General permits pertain to a group of similar activities, such as boat docks or shore protection, that are determined to have minimal impacts on the aquatic environment, both individually and cumulatively, and can apply regionally or nationwide. Corps headquarters issues NWPs but individual projects are authorized under the NWPs by Corps district offices.

The Corps introduced the first NWPs in 1977. Most of these NWPs authorized certain categories of activities (e.g., aids to navigation, structures in artificial canals, repair and maintenance, utility line crossings, bank stabilization, minor road crossings, etc.) on a national basis. Also in 1977, the Corps began issuing permits for activities in headwater and isolated waters. At the same time, the Corps issued NWPs that authorized fills into these newly regulated waters under certain condi-


tions. In 1984, the Corps reissued these headwater and isolated water NWPs as NWP 26 and limited fills to less than 10 acres. In 1996 and 2000, the Corps took two significant steps to further protect the aquatic environment, first by reducing the NWP 26 threshold from 10 to 3 acres in 1996, and then by replacing NWP 26 in 2000, with five new NWPs that lowered the thresholds from 3 to ½ acre. The purpose of these changes was to improve environmental protection and ensure compliance with Section 404(e) of the Clean Water Act.

On August 9, 2001, the Army Corps of Engineers released proposed changes to its nationwide permits and general conditions. The changes the Corps is proposing are intended to simplify permits that have no more than minimal effect on the environment. This allows the Corps to allocate more of its limited resources in the regulatory program to projects that have greater impacts. Most permits and conditions will not change, but some are being simplified and clarified to maintain the level of environmental protection while reducing unnecessary burdens on the regulated public. The full text of the proposed changes is available at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a010809c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a010809c.html).

The protective acreage thresholds established in June 2000 for the NWP 26 replacement permits will be maintained, but several refinements are included that will allow greater targeting of Corps resources to projects with significant potential for environmental impact. In addition, several provisions have been

simplified to foster improved compliance. The revised permits are the result of extensive consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal agencies.

As a result of strict limits included in nationwide permits, activities that are permitted result in no more than minimal effects on the aquatic environment. Moreover, since nationwide permits allow speedier processing of permits, applicants will often voluntarily reduce the impacts of their projects to the threshold required for a nationwide permit, thus reducing the impacts on the environment. The Corps will continue to require an individual permit for any project, whether covered by a general permit or not, which it determines would have more than minimal environmental impact.

For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program, visit the USACE Headquarters' web page at <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/>. 





# Annual PDT Conference Held in Pittsburgh

By Joseph Jones, Planning Chief



The Project Delivery Team Conference was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from 20-23 August 2001. The main theme of the conference was "People, Process and Communication." Each day of the conference centered on one specific theme. The overriding emphasis of the conference was that the PDT or Project Delivery Team is the most important tool that the Corps or any other organization possesses.

The first day focused on the people. "People" are the most important resource that the Corps of Engineers has, and it is crucial that we support each other on every level. It was stressed that we, the Corps, need to develop a work force that will be able to carry on the mission of the Corps, and that this development of our people must begin immediately. This development means personnel initiatives to enable the Corps to attract new employees, and also the applicable training and pay latitude to maintain and develop our people to become leaders in the future. It was emphasized that leadership development should be conducted at every level

and not just in the senior staff.


One other aspect of the "People" theme was the way in which we do business with our customers. Gone are the days where the Corps operates in a vacuum. We must not only have input from our partners and the other agencies that provide information and guidance, but we must incorporate them into our PDT from the outset.

"Process" was the topic of the second day of the conference. The Project Management Business Process (PMBP) is here to stay. However, there will be changes in the tools used for the implementation of the process. The Corps will move to using "off the shelf" software instead of developing their own. This will enable people to be less confused about tools available and will enable the Corps to better interface with the public. This switch to the new tools will be implemented in October 2002 with complete transformation completed by October 2003. The drive is to make the tools for the PMBP simpler and more efficient. This will improve the effectiveness and expand the use to not only the Corps but also our customers.

The second part of this day was spent on a field trip to the Braddock Lock and Dam project. It was truly inspirational to see such innovative approaches (floating dam) being taken by the Pittsburgh District in the placing of a new dam on one of Pittsburgh's major rivers. It was a fine example of people, process and communication in action. For more information see Pittsburgh District web page at [www.lrp.usace.army.mil](http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil).

"Communication" was the final theme of the conference. The Corps needs to be straight forward and truthful and maintain a listening mode when communicating with people, both internal and external. Communication is a talent that must be learned, and if we are going to be effective in the future, we need to develop and maintain our communications skills.

The conference ended with an Awards dinner, and an excellent talk from LTG Robert Flowers. Flowers again emphasized the importance of the PMBP and the push to make the process easier and more available in the interfacing with the public. He was emphatic that the new process will be in place before the end of his assignment. He stressed the importance of the employees of the Corps and our mission for the Nation.

Overall, it was a great conference and the Pittsburgh District did an excellent job. Not only did the conference give me an opportunity to learn more about the PMBP process, but it also afforded me the opportunity to meet the people from other Divisions and Districts. This networking with other Corps elements will help us in our pursuit to be a regional or national player in the "One Door to the Corps" environment that will be important in developing our future workload. 

What was your best, scariest or coolest Halloween Costume Ever? "I have lots of favorites but I think the best was when I was a Moon Jelly, complete with glowing appendages." Paul Hinchcliff

# District Working to Protect Loggerhead Turtles

By Mary Scianna

The loggerhead sea turtle is listed as a threatened species by the United States Endangered Species Act. Every summer, between May and August, loggerhead females crawl onto many of South Carolina's beaches to lay their eggs. Sand nourishment projects occur on many of these beaches. Nourishment projects can sometimes alter the parameters of the natural beach. The effects of these changes on turtle nesting are unclear.

Therefore, the Charleston District has been investigating the effects of beach nourishment projects on loggerhead sea turtle nesting since July 2001. The Corps, in conjunction with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), hired me, a College of Charleston graduate student, to take on this project. I am in the Master of Environmental Studies Program in the Environmental Science Track with a concentration in Biology. I am from Reading, Pennsylvania, where I graduated from Albright College with a B.S. in Biology. I am working closely with Alan Shirey, Jimmy Hadden, Paula Sisson (FWS), and Dr. Dave Owens (C of C) in accomplishing this work and am receiving additional support from Robin Collier-Socha, Doug Marcy, Mill Dowd, LaVar Miller, and Sally Murphy (SCDNR).

The goal of this work is to determine (1) if there is a preferred beach profile for turtle nesting and (2) if the post-nourishment beach tilling requirements can be reduced. If a preferred beach profile can be identified, then the District can conduct future beach renourishment projects in a "turtle-friendly" manner. If beach tilling requirements can be reduced, thousands of dollars can be saved on future beach renourishment projects.

For this project I am working with a team, collecting data on sand grain size and color, sand compaction, and beach profiles. Studies are taking place




on Hilton Head Island, which was last nourished in 1999, and Kiawah Island, which has never been nourished. Using both beaches and historical data from Bill Eiser (OCRM), the team and I hope to find a beach profile type that South Carolina loggerhead turtles prefer. Typically, nesting females will dig a hole in which to lay their eggs immediately seaward of the dunes, in an area where there is a distinct elevation change. It seems that if there is no change in elevation, the turtles will turn around and head back out to

sea without laying their eggs on South Carolina's beaches at all. Because it takes so much energy for females to crawl onto the beach, they may not have enough energy left to venture to another beach to lay their eggs. There is currently no data in South Carolina to support this observation, so the District has set out to gather enough data to be able to select a beach profile range that is more suitable for turtle nesting. Therefore, for future projects, the District can build a beach slope that does not negatively impact the turtles' nesting behaviors. We also hope to find a compaction level that is not too hard for the turtles to dig in. Typical compaction measurements range from 300-1,000 psi (pounds per square inch). Presently, FWS requires that the Corps till any beach that is over 500 psi. The data they used to determine this number was from Florida's beaches; however, the beaches and turtles there are different. In fact, Cape Island, SC, which has never been nourished, has compaction levels that average over 1,000 psi, and it has the greatest abundance of loggerhead nests. Therefore, the team is gathering data on both a natural and nourished beach to compare the compaction levels and number of nests on each beach. The data may show that, in fact, it is not the compaction levels that are hindering turtles' nesting success. The Corps would then save potentially thousands of dollars due



to reduced tilling requirements. The team also collected sand samples from both beaches in order to analyze the sand grain size and color. The goal is to keep the sand grain size and color similar to those before the nourishment project because sand grain size and color affect compaction levels and temperatures. All of these parameters are thought to have an effect on a turtle's decision to nest on a certain beach as well as their success at nesting.

Over the past few years, the number of loggerhead nests on South Carolina's beaches have been decreasing. With this in mind, the team and I hope to help improve beach nourishment methods to make the beaches more desirable and suitable for the turtles. As mentioned previously, similar studies have been completed on this topic on Florida's beaches, but because our beaches differ in various ways, there is a need for more information for our state. The results of this project will give engineers, biologists, and coastal managers a better idea of the requirements for more successful turtle nesting. And in turn, the Corps can reduce the negative effects that beach nourishment projects can have on sea turtle nesting and make South Carolina's beaches a more "turtle-friendly" place. 

What was your best, scariest or coolest Halloween Costume Ever? The coolest one I saw though was when one of my professors from college dressed up as a Spanish Fly - with wings and a sombrero... The works". Doug Marcy


## Commanders Corner Continued

recommendations are made to the Division Commander. Last year our full-time members were Mr. Elmer Schwingen and Mr. Joe Coates. This year one of our seats has rotated from Joe to Mr. Bobby Riggs. We all owe Joe Coates a great deal of thanks for his participation last year. There have also been a number of changes within the Division leadership, COL Roger A. Gerber replaced COL Joseph Schmitt as the Savannah District Commander and COL Robert B. Keyser replaced COL J. David Norwood as the Commander of Mobile District. As you all know, LTC Mark Held replaced COL Terry Youngbluth as the Deputy Division Commander in Atlanta.

**Headquarters Update.** There are at least three actions that are coming from Headquarters directly to each of us. First is registration of all Army employees into Army Knowledge Online. This web-based program will provide great benefits to each of us and to the Army allowing improved communications, management, and information sharing. The goal for registration was completion by 1 October 2001, if you have not registered yet, please do your part for this Army priority. Second, the HQDA Army Civilian Attitude Survey should be completed by all civilian employees through a web based program. The purpose of the survey is to assess how civilian staff members feel about their work situation. The goal for completion is 31 October 2001. Third, CorpsPath is coming in October. CorpsPath is a CD based training aid we will all complete over the

course of FY2002. It is designed to help foster and improve a sense of community within the Corps. Specifically, it will help the Corps share a common language, values, goals, approach to work life, and sense of history.

**Values and Personal Pride.** The tragic events of 11 September 2001 have touched the entire Nation, and affected each of us differently. Acts such as these will only unite us as a Nation, as an Army, and as a community. As both the President and the Secretary of Defense have stated, the core values and spirit of America cannot be broken by such acts. As we continue to move forward, it is important that we remember and pray for those directly impacted by this tragedy, but also that we show our resolve and prove our ability to continue to function as a Nation, an Army, a community, and a District. The Corps has and is playing a vital roll in the Nation's recovery from this act. Within the Charleston District we have numerous volunteers ready to deploy to support any requirements we can fill in the days ahead. We can all be proud of how we have responded to this event, exemplifying our Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless-Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.

Once again, I am proud to be serving our Nation, our Army and our Corps here in Charleston with you and am very proud to wear my Charleston District T-Shirt anywhere I travel. 

## E3 Energize, Empower, and Educate

In our ongoing quest to familiarize the District's employees with each other, The *Charleston District Dispatch* spoke to three employees about their duties at work and their lives outside of the office. This issue features personnel from Resource Management, Cost Engineering, and General Engineering.



**Melvyn "Ace" Acevedo**

Known to most of us as Ace, this accountant from RM is an avid bowler and golfer. He also lists one of his hobbies as spending time with his wife and grandchildren in the park. Ace and Josie, his wife of 30 years, have three children and three grandchildren.

As an accountant for the District, Ace reviews financial reports and automated systems records to ensure accuracy and integrity. He serves the District as an alternate data manager. He works with CEFMS data manager tables, grants permissions, and assists users by writing SQL queries to obtain specialized

data and reports. In short, if you have data needs in CEFMS, check with Ace, he might be able to help you out.

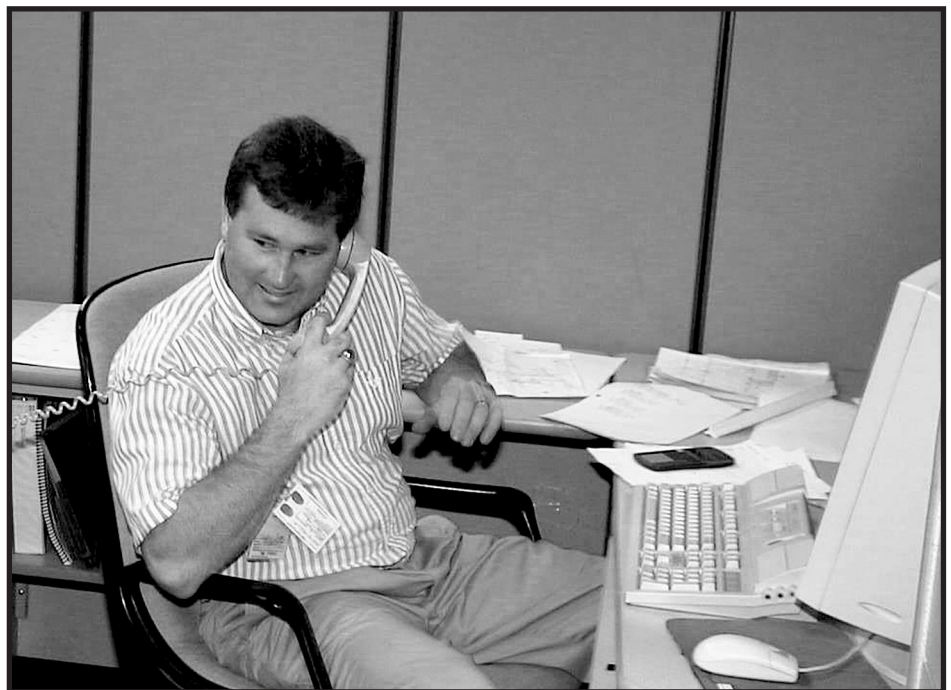
Ace joined the District almost 3 years ago. He retired from the Navy after 27 years and went to work for DFAS. He was working for them when he saw the announcement on USAJOBS and applied and is now a member of the District family. According to Ace, the best thing about working for the Corps is "the friendliness and the cooperation you get from everyone."

What was your best, scariest or coolest Halloween Costume Ever? "The worst one was when Murphy painted my face with camouflage paint and I had to wear a camouflage uniform. It took two days to get all that paint off." Iris is also a Halloween Eve baby. Iris Winn

### Cliff Costa

The Charleston District acquired our newest Cost Engineer in July 2000 from the Federal Aviation Administration. Cliff Costa was working for them and living in Newnan, Georgia. His family's goal was to get back home to Charleston before the children started school. Cliff had always heard that the Corps had a great work environment, and pursued a position within the District. "Thank goodness the Charleston District was able to take me in," says Cliff. His wife Deborah is a teacher at John Wesley Early Childhood Center and they have two children, Kelsey (4) and McKenna (3).

As a member of the Cost Engineering Team, Cliff provides cost estimating support for all Charleston District missions. He utilizes





MCACES and Excel to estimate costs for diking, dredging, shore protection, plant applications, dam remediation, construction of Department of Energy facilities, and military construction. While this might seem like too many different things to work on, it suits Cliff just fine. "The best thing about working for the Corps is the wide array of technical interests that we can be a part of.... We support the needs of our country whatever they may be, and that really is something to be proud of, especially right now." Continued Cliff, "The atmosphere within the Charleston District is unique in that it is like one would expect within a big family (a family with a bunch of characters, that is). I could not imagine a more hospitable work environment."


Cliff enjoys boating and football games, in addition to deer hunting and fishing. He says "I am currently trying to brainwash my children into being devote James Island Trojans, Clemson Tigers, and Atlanta Braves fans. Unfortunately, they have already become Jeff Gordon fans." And when Cliff says he's a Clemson fan, he means it. When asked what he would do if he were Commander for a day, he said he'd want to be Commander on a Friday so he could require people to wear Clemson "orange" pants instead of blue jeans.

### Jean Wallace

Although not an employee of Contracting, Jean Wallace deals a great deal with A/E contracts. As a Civil Engineering Technician in Design Branch, Jean's daily work includes design management and technical coordination of design projects and Architect-Engineer contracts. This requires making sure that all of the contracting steps that must be followed have the proper paperwork to document them, including preparation of technical memoranda and price negotiation memoranda. She also ensures that quality assurance reviews are conducted on design projects prior to submitting projects to Contracting Division for advertising for construction bids.

Jean was working as a

draftsman at Fort Stewart, Georgia, when she submitted an application for a job announcement for a Drafting position here in the Charleston District. She was selected for the position and began work on President's Day 1981. Because of her interest in golf, Jean is the "Project Manager" for the District's Golf League.

When asked what three people (living or dead) she would invite to dinner at her house, Jean replied "Eleanor Roosevelt, Mother Teresa, and Sam Nunn." When asked if there was a reason for these particular three she replied, "These were the first three people who came to mind." One thing for sure, the dinner guests would be offered California White Seedless Grapes. They are Jean's favorite food. 

## PROMOTIONS

The District would like to congratulate all of the people who received promotions since the last edition of the District Dispatch was published.

<b>Troy Davis</b>	<b>GS-5</b>
<b>Margie Brown</b>	<b>GS-9</b>
<b>John Kassebaum</b>	<b>GS-13</b>
<b>Diane Carter</b>	<b>GS-12</b>
<b>Debbie King</b>	<b>GS-12</b>



# On Assignment in Washington, D.C. District's Jon Jellema Tackles Developmental Assignment



**Editor's Note:** *The District Dispatch* initially interviewed Jon on September 7. A follow-up interview was held after the incidents of September 11. Below is a synopsis of the interviews.

**DD: What is your assignment at HQ?**

JJ: I am in the Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA), and report to the Chief of Congressional Affairs, Jim Rausch. We are the liaison for the Chief of Engineers with Congress. In any given week we meet/speak with Congressional or committee staff, attend hearings, prepare the Chief or other Corps personnel for meetings with Members of Congress or their staff or testimony at hearings, respond to Congressional inquiries with regard to Corps activities, and seek information from Members or their staff on behalf of the Corps.

**DD: How is it different from**

**what you do here?**

JJ: My position in OCA is not a legal job, per se (it doesn't require that I be a lawyer), though my background in law is useful. The pace here is a bit faster, and there are typically a good number of things that have to be kept moving at a pretty good clip. This position requires even more people contact than my District job since much of our work is dependent on other offices or people within and outside the Corps.

**DD: What made you want to tackle this challenge?**

JJ: It fit right in with my interests and background (e.g., I spent a semester in college in D.C. doing internships, etc.) and looked like a great opportunity to enhance my expertise as an attorney for the Corps. However, it is God who opened the door and paved the way.

**DD: What are the big differences between working at HQ and working at the District?**

JJ: People here in HQ are quite friendly, so that's no difference. One difference is commuting -- most commutes in Charleston pale in comparison to what a lot of folks have to do here. Fortunately, my commute is short for D.C. -- only a half hour door-to-door. Another difference is that things are more visibly influenced here by politics. This influence tends to trickle down to the districts, but

by that time we don't always recognize the origin. And, the snack bar here is extremely well-stocked and would put many convenience stores to shame (not that I go there, or anything).

**DD: What is your favorite thing about D.C. so far?**

JJ: Having lived here before, it's nice to be back. One thing I like about D.C. is that it is a microcosm of every race and ethnic group on the planet -- you never know who you'll get on the elevator with or what language they'll be speaking. I enjoy my job here because it is quite different from what I usually do and requires the exercise of some different skills, though it complements my job in Charleston. D.C. also makes you appreciate many things about living and working in Charleston that we tend to take for granted.

**DD: What were your first thoughts when the events of September 11 began?**

Shock to some degree, though part of me knew it was just a matter of time before something like this happened. I called my wife to tell her about the attack, which she was not aware of. My thoughts did change after getting news of the Pentagon attack, since we live in Pentagon City across I-395 from the Pentagon. My wife heard the explosion, and our apartment building trembled

Continued on page 21



## Guarding the Way by April Miller




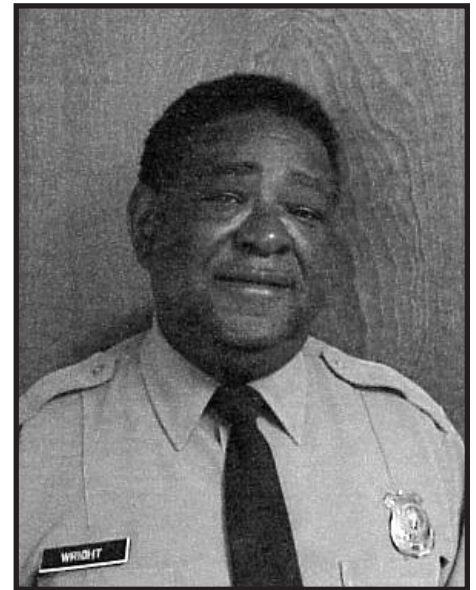
Robert and Lawrence are two people we see everyday. They not only provide security for our building and grounds, but they also begin and end our days with a warm greeting and a smile. Read on to find out more about two of the people who are part of our daily routine.

Robert's full name is Robert Cabotaje. He has been married for 35 years and has a son who is an engineer. With an education in hotel management and the culinary arts, Robert joined the Navy in 1957, where his duties ranged from meat cutter, to Certified Navy Food Service Instructor, to Inspector of Commissary Stores and Navy Exchanges Overseas. He retired from the Navy in 1987. He then served with local and DOD police at the Charleston Naval Base until it closed in 1996. Since then he has been an employee of the Federal Protective Service as a security officer. Robert says his favorite thing about his job is providing protection and security for the

employees and for government property. What he finds most frustrating is that occasionally some people do not communicate well with him, and can be inconsiderate. Why did he choose to work security? Robert gives this answer, "I provide a much needed service for workers and my government. This gives me a feeling of being a contributor to my country." When asked how the recent terrorist attacks have affected him, Robert replied, "I feel very bad. We are united, we have a strong nation and a strong military," and he stated with conviction that he strongly supports a military response against the terrorists and the countries that aid and/or harbor them.

Fellow guard Lawrence Wright served in the U.S. military as well; he served five years active duty in the Army, and served twenty-three years in the Army Reserves. Lawrence was the choir director for the 1189th Army Reserve Brigade from 1987 until he retired from the Reserves in 1998. Although most of Lawrence's career was spent in the life and health insurance fields, he has a degree in Criminal Justice and worked for a few years in Corrections for Charleston County. After retirement, when pondering his future plans, Lawrence "thought it would be great to accept the challenge of a related field in the Criminal Justice System." He has been in his current position for three years, and reports that what he enjoys most about his job is interaction

with fellow employees. When asked what the most frustrating thing about his job is, Lawrence replied, "The inability (due to one-man shift) to take a 10 or 15 minute get away/snack break." Lawrence has two boys, ages 21 and 23, who currently live in Orlando, Florida-one attending Florida State and the other attending Orlando College. How have the terrorist attacks of September 11 affected him? Lawrence says that although he has always been security conscious, recent events have heightened his awareness to the importance of security in the workplace as well as in our daily lives. He added, "A free country is one that believes in top security for its people. My prayers are with the God-fearing people in the world-God Bless America!" 



What was your best, scariest or coolest Halloween Costume Ever? "In 2nd grade I was Raggedy Ann." Nia Dozier

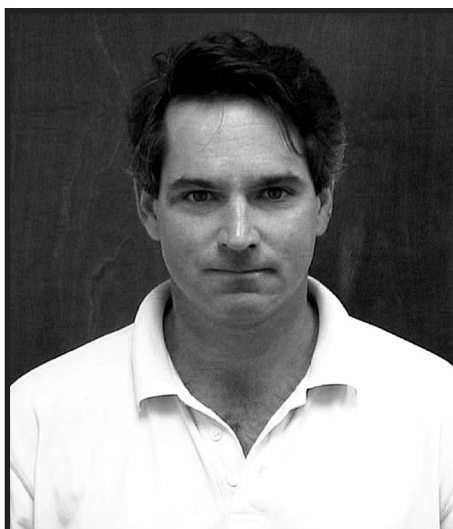
## Hail and Fairwell

The Charleston District has added several new staff members to its team in the last few months. A total of six new people have been added to the staffs of Contracting, Surveying, St. Stephen Power Plant and CPAC. Let's meet and greet the new team members.



**Emma Billue**---Emma Billue will fill the CPAC Chief vacancy left by the retirement of Pat Baremore. Emma comes to us from the Southeast CPOC. She has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Savannah State College with an undergraduate degree in Sociology from St. Leo College in St. Leo FL. Her first day in the District was September 24.

**Harry Stabler**--- Harry is the newest employee at our St. Stephen Power Plant. He is filling a 120 day temporary assignment as a maintenance worker. Harry has previously worked for SCDNR at the fish lift, so he is no stranger to the project. Welcome Harry!



**Keating L. Smith**---"Lewis" Smith returned to the District on August 12 after being away for 4.5 years, first in Saudi Arabia with Army Materiel Command and Trans Atlantic Center and then in Iceland for NAVFAC. If you want to find out more about his unique assignments, you can find Lewis in the Geotechnical Team part of the second floor. Welcome back Lewis!

**Jonathan Bridgeman**---Joining our Survey Team is Jonathan Bridgeman. Before coming to the Corps, Jonathan was the General Manager of Mark's Pizzeria in Summerville.



He will still be involved with the business even while working here. Welcome aboard!

**Jaeda Jeffreys**---The second new addition to the Survey Team, Jaeda (pronounced je day) comes to us from Columbia, SC. In Columbia he attended the Midlands Technical School. We're glad to have him as part of the team.

**Mattie Washington**---When you go to Contracting for assistance, you'll see the new face of Mattie Washington, a native of Ravenel. She comes to us from the US Navy, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, NAS Jacksonville, FL where she was a procurement analyst. She has a BS in Business Administration and Management from Brenau University in Gainesville, GA.

As the District opened its doors to new employees, it bid good-bye to five. We wish them the very best as they begin another chapter of their lives.


**Lorraine Cosentino**---Lorraine came to the District from New Jersey, where she worked with the Project Manager Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below (PM FBCB2). While in the District, she worked in a temporary position as a Regulatory Clerk. Lorraine transferred to a permanent job with the Internal Revenue Service here in Charleston. We wish her all the best in her new job.

**LT Jamie Alexander**---Jamie is a 2001 graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point, New



York. She graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering. Jamie worked in the Regulatory Division for a month as part of a professional development assignment to learn about the Corps. Jamie has moved on to her next assignment at Engineering OBC in Missouri and then on to Ft. Stewart.

**LT Michael Miller**---Like his predecessor or Jamie, Michael joined the Charleston District for a month as part of a professional development assignment following his graduation from West Point. During his assignment here, he worked in the Permits Branch of Regulatory. Mike is now at his next assignment at Engineering OBC in Missouri. Following that he's off to Germany for an assignment there.

**Pat Baremore**---After 37 years of Federal service, Pat Baremore is retiring on October 3. Pat has been with the District for 2 years, helping us through all kinds of Personnel issues. She plans to spend her retirement doing absolutely nothing, except finishing up her Naval Reserve Career in 2003. Enjoy your retirement Pat--you've earned it! 

What was your best, scariest or coolest Halloween Costume Ever? "Well the coolest costume I ever had was a great, big Tweety bird costume with bright yellow fur. It was stuffed and I wore tights and flaps." Hmm, and she made it too. Robin Crosby

Continued from page 18

noon on the day of the attack, the FBI came to our apartment building. They searched the roof and decks and found several more pieces of the airplane that hit the Pentagon.

**DD: Could you hear or see any of the Pentagon incident from the Corps HQ?**

JJ: No. Initially the GAO building where we're located was supposedly under "lock-down," nobody in or out. The FBI building kitty-corner from us was quickly ringed with heavily armed men and the streets cordoned-off. Then, people began to flood the streets from the buildings as all employees were let out. Gridlock on every street ensued for some time. A couple hours later, after I learned that the Metro (subway) was still operating, I left for home. They did shut down my usual line because it crosses a bridge over the Potomac River.

**DD: What was it like to be in Washington D.C. in the days following the event?**

JJ: In some ways, just like everywhere else in the Nation: people glued to their television sets. Being close to the Pentagon, going up to the 22nd floor deck at night, you could see the flames still burning, the rescue personnel, the lights burning all night, the helicopters endlessly circling, the hundreds of flashing lights of the emergency vehicles.

**DD: I know you are on alert as part of the STOLS team. What are your thoughts as**

**you wait to hear if you will be needed to assist?**

At this point, I don't think they'll activate us. It is disappointing. Chris Mack and I have trained for this. I hate sitting here, and not being on the scene to help. But at least I can pray for the rescuers that are on site - and for any of those who remain alive in the rubble.

**DD: What impact, if any, have these events had on your decision to work in D.C., even on a temporary basis?**

JJ: It is strange, but it makes me want to stay, to stand our ground, to "fight" against the cowardly barbarians who did this. Certainly, it is quite clear that terrorism is not something this Nation and its people can run from. This attack gives me a better perspective on what Israel has gone through over the years.

**DD: Since your job there deals so much with Congress, how has it changed in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks?**

JJ: Oh, lots of things have been cancelled or rescheduled, and obviously the focus of Congressional activity and interest has changed. Much of our communications now deal with Pentagon status, USACE response, etc. It is hard to deal with things that are "normal" or mundane. Fortunately, the people we work with in Army Legislative Liaison at the Pentagon all seem to be okay.



# District Designs Marine Corps Air Station Renovation

by Sophia Gizelle George

When thinking of the Beaufort area, many people's first thoughts are of a rural, Old South community of stately homes and antique shops. Their second thought is of the United States Marine Corps. The Marine Corps has a prominent presence in the Beaufort area. The more widely recognized site is the Marine Corps Recruit Depot located on Parris Island. The other is the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), eight miles from the Recruit Depot. The MCAS is located seventy miles south southwest of Charleston and is spread over 6,900 acres of land. The area is locally dubbed "Fightertown" and holds a noteworthy part in the History of South Carolina. Previously, the land was home to several prominent plantations. In 1779, British troops had landed within miles of this area and battled Americans at Gray's Hill during the Revolutionary War. An airport, to be located on the site, was proposed in 1941 by the Civil Aeronautics Authority, and during the subsequent two years, a Naval Auxiliary Air Station was constructed. The area was allocated as a Marine Corps Auxiliary Airfield in 1956. Today, Fightertown is home to over 700 Marines and soldiers and approximately 600 civilian personnel.

So, how does this relate to the Army Corps of Engineers? As you walk through the Technical Services Division, you see that one of the highlighted projects for the General Engineering Team is "Providing design to Marine Corps Air Station for the renovation of the Officer's Club, including Historic Santini's Bar and the renovation of the BOQ conference center."

The *District Dispatch* sat down with Charlie Harbin, General Engineering Team Leader, to learn more about the District's efforts on this military project.

This is the District's first large military affiliated project in several years and Harbin says, "The project is also looked upon as being one which will help the Charleston District build relationships with its clients." In years past, the District had performed a variety of military work for various divisions of the military. In 1995, a change in policy at our South Atlantic Division office resulted in an order to cease and desist all work at the MCAS, as well as at other military installations. The abrupt halt of the work caused a great deal of frustration for our military clients who were accustomed to the staff and work ethic of the Charleston District. Many were unhappy about the abrupt change in policy by the Corps. Once SAD policy was refined to allow the Charleston District to perform what was deemed "backyard" military work, it was several years before our old clients designated a project of this size for our design services.

The present project is divided into two components. The renovation of the Officers Club is a \$2.8 million dollar task, and the restoration of the Bachelor Officers Quarters Conference Center on the base would cost \$500,000. Charlie considers them both very "high profile jobs." The Officers Club overlooks the marsh and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The building is 16,000 square feet and houses a ballroom, dining area, several offices, three bars and a kitchen. It was built in the mid 1950's and the Club has

much prestige associated with it. The building also holds some sentimentality to many who can boast that the book "The Great Santini," which was later made into a movie, was set in the Officers Club. One of the bars is named the "Santini Room." The Conference Center is divided into a large conference room, a small meeting room, restrooms and storage spaces.

Beaufort is a high seismic area and one of the first steps of the District's team was to ascertain the risk to the building during seismic activity. After a systematic Seismic Analysis, it was deemed that considerable seismic upgrade would be necessary. The entire building is being renovated. Most of the walls are being rebuilt and new floors and ceilings will be installed. There will be new electrical wiring and a new standing seam metal roof will be constructed. New bars will be constructed and the kitchen restored. Charlie says, "It will be a pretty thorough renovation."

The Mobile District provided architectural and structural engineering services via electronic communication with the Charleston District. The interior design features of the project were also designed by the Mobile District. The contract for the actual renovations will be awarded by the Marine Corps Air Station at the end of this fiscal year, with construction slated to begin in January 2002. Total construction time is expected to be 18 months. The Officers Club will be built first and work is expected to begin on the Bachelors Officers Quarters Conference Room in a year's time.





# District Golfers Score Birdies and Bogeys in Tournament

On a beautiful August afternoon, the Summer Tournament of the Corps Golf League began at the River Club on the Ashley with a shotgun start at high noon. Six teams of four players each came out to match wits and skills and to vie for the title of Tournament Champions. The battle was fierce, but in the end, the team of Jim Henderson, Bob Riggs, Tom Tullis and John Crawford were victorious, ending the day four under par.

Close behind them at three under was the team of Vernard Cleveland, Gary McAlister, Kevin Widner and Oscar Daniel. The winners each received their choice of sleeves of golf balls. Two individual awards were given. The longest drive competition, held on hole number 15, was won by Jim Whiteman. The closest to the hole competition on hole number 8 was won by Nat Ball. Each of these winners also received a sleeve of golf balls.

The Spring League winners were also announced at the end of the tournament, with the team of Jim Whiteman and Gary McAlister claiming the honor. The team of Doug Holmes and his wife, Becky Holmes, were runners-up. The winning team received a cash prize.


The Charleston District Golf League has been around since the 1980's. During that time the District averaged about one golf tournament per year. Tournaments have been organized by various people in the district, including Mark Turner

and Jean Wallace. Jean has organized the league and tournament play since Spring 1997.

Interest in golf increased in the early to mid 1990's and a Golf Committee was established to sponsor the Spring and Fall Leagues with a tournament held before and after each league.

Golfers have been Charleston District team members, family and friends. Currently, league play and tournament play are held at River Club on the Ashley since they offer fair and reasonable rates and a shotgun start for tournaments. Since 1997 league play has averaged 12 to 18 players, while tournament play generally draws 15 to 24 players.

For most of the years league play has been held at the River Club on the Ashley (Kings Grant), although occasionally league and tournament play has been at other area courses, like Redbank Golf Course at the Naval Weapons Station, Shadowmoss, Patriots Point, Charleston Air Force Base (Wrenwoods), and the Charleston Municipal Golf Course, just to name a few.

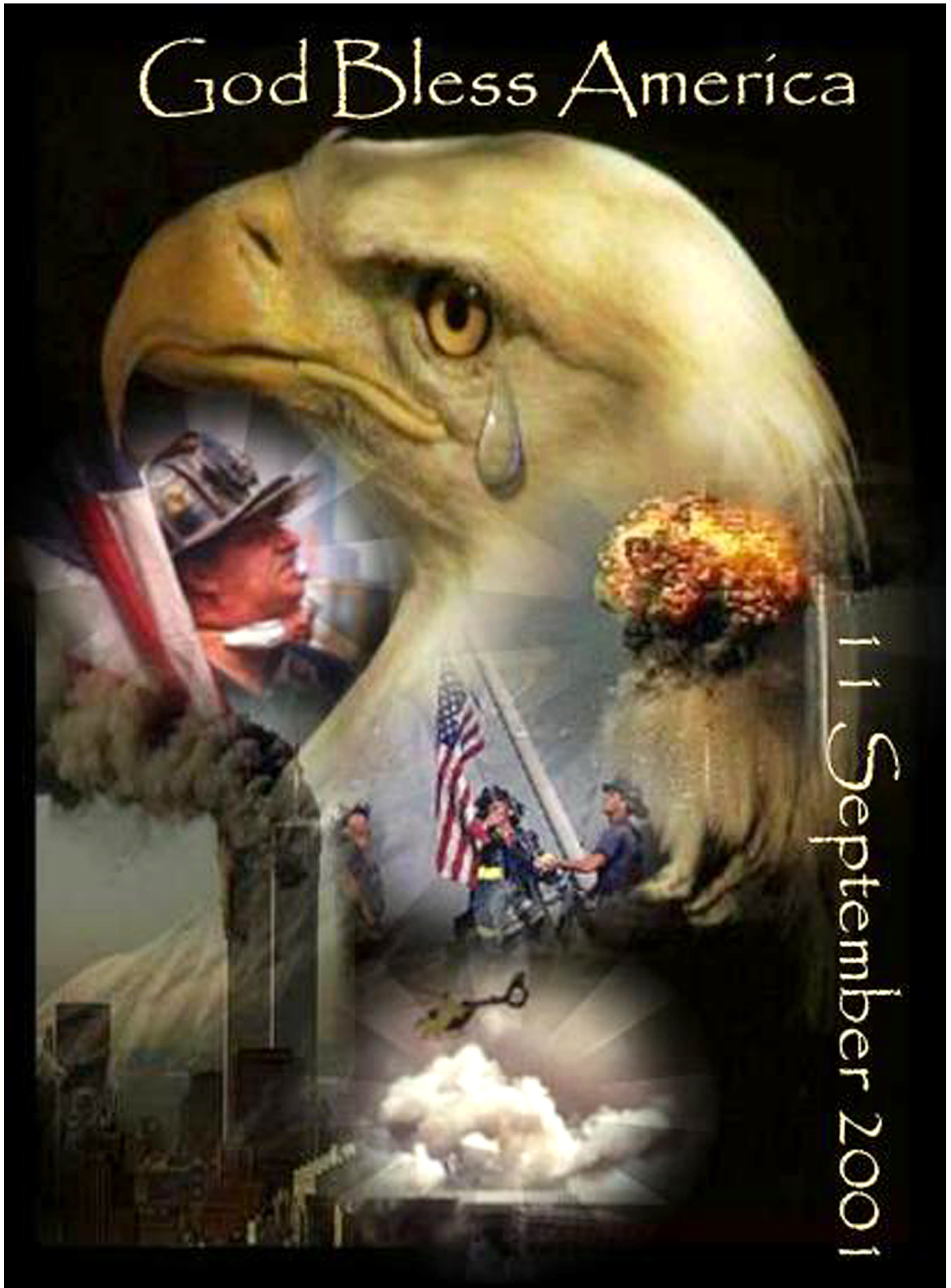
The Fall Golf League is underway, with 16 people participating. Play occurs on Monday afternoons and will conclude in mid-October. The Spring League will begin sometime in April. 



LTC Mueller showing off his prime putting form.

# God Bless America

11 September 2001



Art by Dave Kappel